

an insulator bonded to said first electro-active element,

wherein said first electro-active element and said first and second conductors are not in electrical contact with said suspension structure, and

wherein the first electro-active element is located within the actuator so that the actuator assumes a non-planar shape for at least part of the time following activation,

wherein said actuator is bonded to said suspension structure such that in-plane strain in said electro-active element is effectively shear-coupled between said electro-active element and said insulator, and

wherein said in-plane strain in said insulator is effectively shear-coupled between said insulator and said suspension structure.

32. (Amended) A disk drive device comprising

a suspension structure; and

an actuator having

at least a first electro-active element;

a first conductor in direct electrical contact with said first electro-active element;

a second conductor in direct electrical contact with said first electro-active element; and

an insulator bonded to said first electro-active element and said suspension structure,

wherein said first electro-active element and said first and second conductors are not in electrical contact with said suspension structure, and

wherein the first electro-active element is located within the actuator so that the actuator assumes a non-planar shape for at least part of the time following activation,

wherein said actuator is bonded to said suspension structure such that in-plane strain in said electro-active element is effectively shear-coupled between said electro-active element and said suspension structure.

33. (Amended) A disk drive device comprising

a suspension structure; and

an actuator having

at least a first electro-active element;

a first conductor in direct electrical contact with said first electro-active element;

a second conductor in direct electrical contact with said first electro-active element; and

an insulator bonded to said first electro-active element and said suspension structure,

wherein said first electro-active element and said first and second conductors are not in electrical contact with said suspension structure, and

wherein the first electro-active element is located within the actuator so that the actuator assumes a non-planar shape for at least part of the time following activation,

wherein said actuator is bonded to said suspension structure such that in-plane strain in said electro-active element acts on said suspension structure.

34. (New) The disk drive device of claim 25, wherein the non-planar shape the actuator assumes upon activation is generally sigmoidal.

BASIS FOR AMENDMENTS

Claims 22, 32, and 33 are amended to recite the first electro-active element being located within the actuator so that the actuator assumes a non-planar shape for at least part of the time following actuation. New claim 34 depends indirectly from claim 22, and recites that, in the case of an actuator including first and second electro-active elements, the actuator may assume a